

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A control method for an automatic transmission, comprising:
  - determining whether an engine is operating;
  - checking a shift range selection state when the engine is in a normal operation;
  - 5 determining whether operating elements that commonly operate at N, D and R ranges are operating when said shift range is in N or D range, or in the midst of N-D change;
  - calculating an inspection speed by multiplying an output axle speed of the automatic transmission by a reversing gear ratio when said common operating elements
  - 10 are operating;
  - determining whether a difference between an input axle speed of the automatic transmission and the inspection speed is within a predetermined range for a prescribed period of time; and
  - stopping operation of the common operating elements when it is determined
  - 15 that a vehicle is reversing as a result of the determination in the previous step.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the range checking step comprises:
  - ascertaining whether said shift range is in N range or D range; and
  - ascertaining whether said shift range is in the midst of N-D change control.
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3. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising a step of determining whether the vehicle is running at a predetermined speed between the operation element checking step and the inspection speed calculating step, and carrying out the inspection speed calculating step if the vehicle speed is within a predetermined speed.